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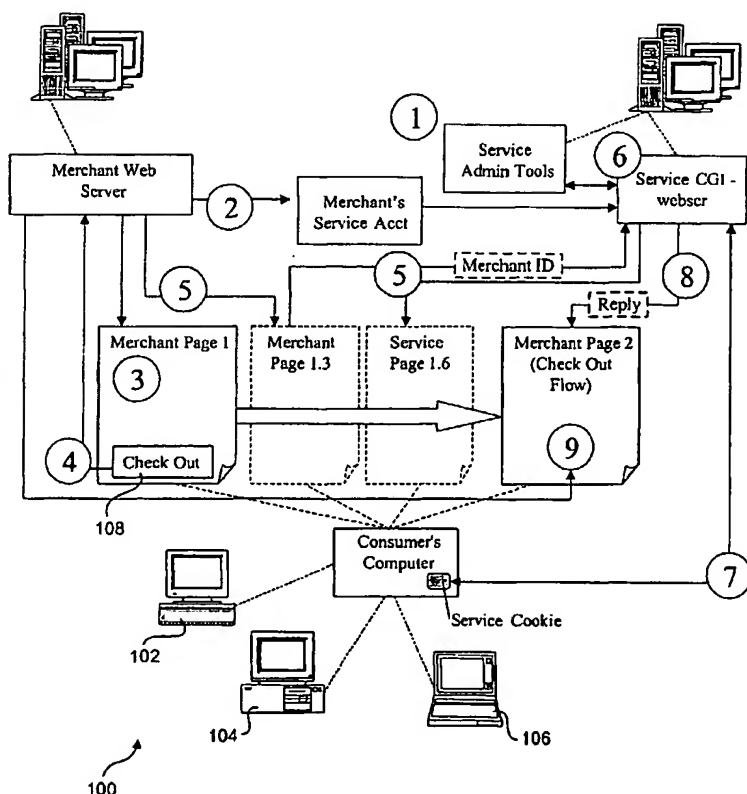
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**(54) Title:** METHOD AND ARCHITECTURE FOR FACILITATING PAYMENT TO E-COMMERCE MERCHANTS VIA A PAYMENT SERVICE



**(57) Abstract:** Method and architecture for facilitating payment to e-commerce merchants via a payment service. The method enables consumer users of an electronic storefront hosted by a merchant to make purchases via the payment service, where the interactions between the electronic storefront (3) and the payment service are transparent to the user. In response to a user check-out request, the user's browser is directed to a payment service (5) web site. Information from which authorization for use of the payment service may be determined is passed to the payment service. The payment service then returns the browser to a selected check-out flow (9) hosted by the electronic storefront, wherein the check-out flow provides an option to use the payment service if the user and merchant are authorized to do so, otherwise the check-out flow does not include the payment service option.



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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

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**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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West**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,931,917 (Nguyen et al.) 03 August 1999 (03.08.1999), column 15, line 37 to column 25, line 30.	1-29
Y	US 6,058,373 (Blinn et al.) 02 May 2000 (02.05.2000), figure 5, column 1 line 6 to column 3, line 50.	1-29
Y	US 6,535,880 B1 (Musgrove et al.) 18 March 2003 (18.03.2003), column 3, line 25 to column 4, line 21.	1-29
Y	US 6,324,525 B1 (Kramer et al.) 27 November 2001 (27.11.2001), figure 3,28,30. column 4, lines 41 to 67.	1-29



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



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